

Application No. 10/636,142  
Amendment filed with RCE

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

T H E   C L A I M S

New independent claim 7 has been added based on (now canceled) claim 3 set forth in the Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 filed by facsimile on October 25, 2004.

New claim 8 depending from claim 7 corresponds to (now canceled) claim 4.

New claim 9 has been added depending from claim 7 to recite the features of the present invention whereby the focus stabilizing apparatus is provided in an inverted microscope, and the fixing base is fixed to a revolver of the inverted microscope, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 71, lines 25-27, and page 72, lines 14-17.

New independent claim 10 has been added based on (now canceled) claim 5 set forth in the Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 filed by facsimile on October 25, 2004. And new independent claim 10 has been prepared to more clearly recite the features of the displacement sensor of the present invention whereby the displacement sensor is provided between the stage and the

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objective lens for detecting a displacement amount of the  
objective lens.

New claim 11 depending from claim 10 corresponds to (now  
canceled) claim 6.

New claim 12 has been added depending from claim 10 to  
recite the features of the present invention whereby the focus  
stabilizing apparatus is provided in an inverted microscope, the  
fixing base is fixed to a revolver of the inverted microscope,  
and the stage is fixed on the inverted microscope above the  
revolver, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at  
page 83, line 15 to page 84, line 8.

New claim 13 has been added depending from claim 10 to  
recite the subject matter of (now canceled) claim 5 set forth in  
the Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 whereby the displacement sensor  
comprises a target provided in a vicinity of an end of the  
objective lens, and a detector provided at the stage.

New independent claim 14 has been added to, in particular,  
recite the features of the present invention whereby the focus  
stabilizing apparatus comprises a movement mechanism which is  
provided between the fixing base and the minute movement table,  
and which allows the minute movement table to move in an optical  
axis direction of the objective lens; and whereby the focus  
stabilizing apparatus comprises a drive mechanism which is

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provided between the fixing base and the minute movement table, and which is adapted to minutely displace the minute movement table in the optical axis direction of the objective lens. See, for example, the disclosure in the specification at page 84, line 22 to page 87, line 3.

And new claim 15 corresponds to new claim 12 depending from claim 14.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 7-15 be approved and entered.

\* \* \* \* \*

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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